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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR/Iran

DATE DISTR. 18 FEB 52

SUBJECT Manpower Shortage in Soviet Azerbaidzhan

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. As is customary, parades were held in honor of the October Revolution in the various villages of Soviet Azerbaidzhan near the Iranian frontier in the Astara region. Observations of the villages of Masjed Mahalleh, Zikaran, Ariapa, Bandsar, and Alath revealed that most of those taking part in the parades were women and children. Whereas in 1949 the number of male participants appeared to be about 3,000, it did not exceed 300 in 1951, and these were largely old, blind, or crippled.
2. Another indication that there are few able-bodied men remaining in the Soviet frontier region of Astara is that a large percentage of persons manning Soviet fishing boats are now women.

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